

Dear State CSBG Administrators,

#### SUPPLEMENTAL

Yesterday, House leaders said they intended to vote on the disaster/war supplemental during the latter part of this week. However, a lack of votes and the Senate schedule could undermine those plans. In the House, Democrats are still trying to line up the votes needed to pass the supplemental measure since Republicans are threatening to withhold their votes over objections to the measure also being used to increase domestic spending. Specifically, as part of the remainder of the bill Democrats are trying to provide \$10 billion to prevent teacher layoffs and almost \$5 billion for Pell grants. And, though Democrats have included offsets for that funding, Republicans still oppose it.

In the Senate, Thursday and Friday will be devoted to honoring the late Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-WV). As such, it appears that a modified supplemental won't be cleared for the President before the recess. **Notably, the supplemental was also being looked at as a vehicle to pass a "budget enforcement resolution" that would set a top line discretionary spending limit for this year's spending bills.**

#### UI BENEFITS

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) says Democrats are one vote short of the 60 they will need to advance a substitute amendment to HR 4213 that would extend unemployment benefits through November 30th at a cost of \$33.9 billion. It would also extend, through September 30th, the closing date for transactions eligible for a home-buying tax credit. A cloture vote is scheduled for Thursday.

#### FY 2011 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS

The FY 2011 Agriculture spending bill will face a House subcommittee mark up today. The administration has requested about \$23.2 billion in discretionary funding for the Agriculture bill, which would represent a reduction of about \$1 billion from the current appropriation. However, the administration requested a \$351 million increase for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), the Agriculture Department's largest discretionary program for which \$7.6 billion is requested. Increases are also requested for other discretionary nutrition programs, such as federal school lunch and school breakfast subsidies. Appropriators are likely to provide the requested increases in nutrition spending, but they will be hard-pressed to find offsets.

*(Source: Congressional Quarterly)*

We will keep you informed as things progress.